WHILE SUPERMAN TACKLES FAR-FLUNG CATASTROPHES, SOMEONE PLOTS DISASTER FOR HIM IN METROPOLIS!
50¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 520
JUNE
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SUPERMAN®
STARRING IN
ACTION® COMICS
ACTION-PLUS WITH AQUAMAN!
ATTABOY, SUPERMAN! STOP THAT MENACE!
NO! YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME HERE ALONE TO FACE THE GREATEST DANGER OF MY LIFE!
GO, SUPERMAN, GO!
MORE NEW PAGES FROM THE NEW DC
ANDRU & GIORDANO

ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON, KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH--WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS! IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED NEWSMAN CLARK KENT--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER EARTH--AND BEYOND--AS...
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
IT'S AN ALL-TOO-FAMILIAR SCENE FOR THOSE WHO KNOW AND LOVE THE DAILY PLANET'S STAR REPORTER...
SORRY ABOUT THIS, LOIS! THERE'S AN OIL TANKER BURNING IN METROPOLIS HARBOR!
I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO BE LATE FOR THE CHARITY BALL!
BUT, SUPERMAN...
SIGH! WHY IS IT I'M NOT SURPRISED?
BUT THIS EVENING, SOMETHING NEW IS ABOUT TO BE ADDED AS WE INTRODUCE ONE OF THE MOST SUBTLE MENACES EVER TO CONFRONT THE MAN OF STEEL...
SUPERMAN'S ARCH-RIVAL FOR LOIS LANE!
GERRY CONWAY writer
JOHN COSTANZA letterer
CURT SWAN penciller
GENE D'ANGELO colorist
FRANK CHIARAMONTE inker
JULIUS SCHWARTZ editor
5-35#6
1

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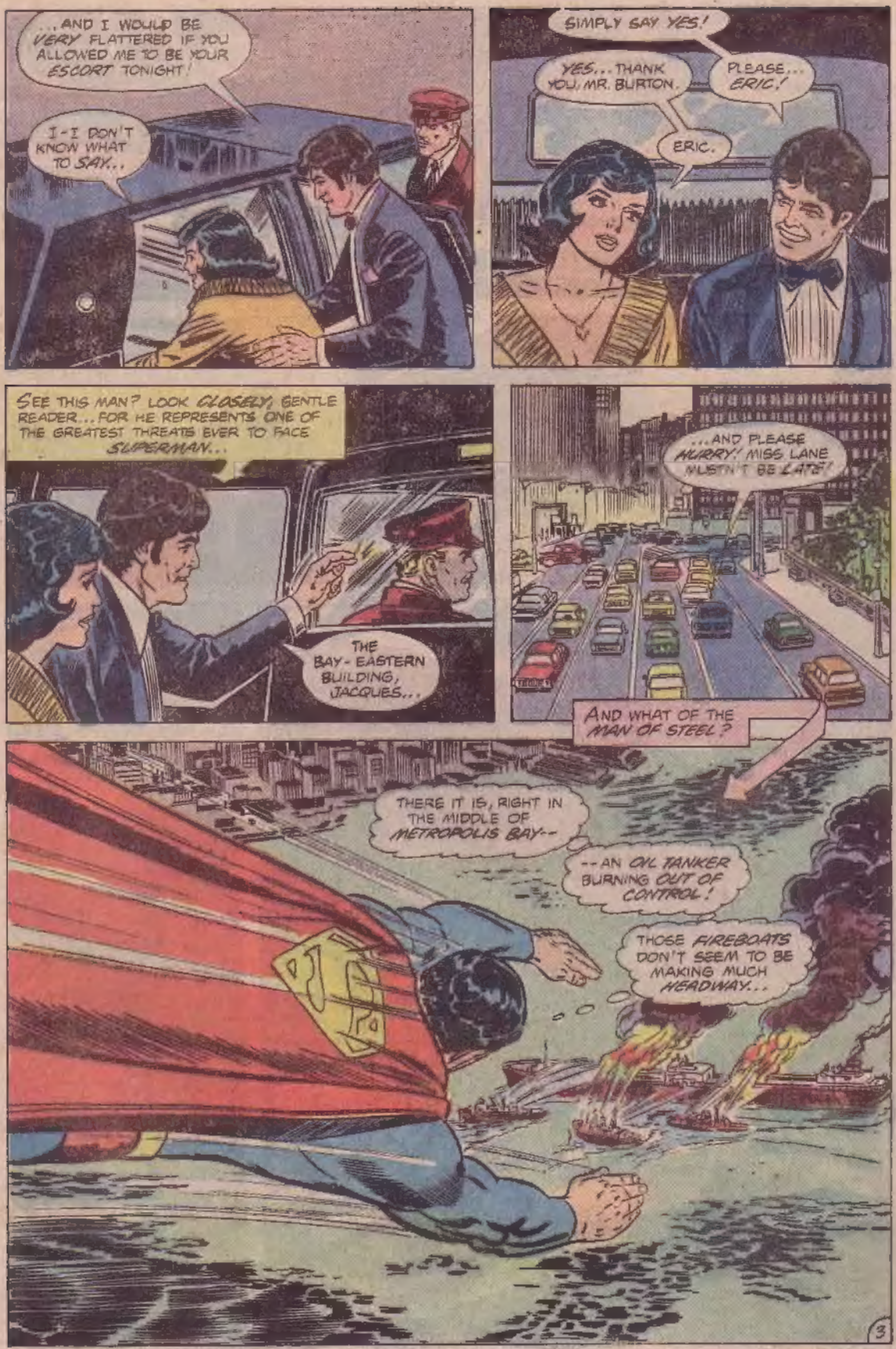
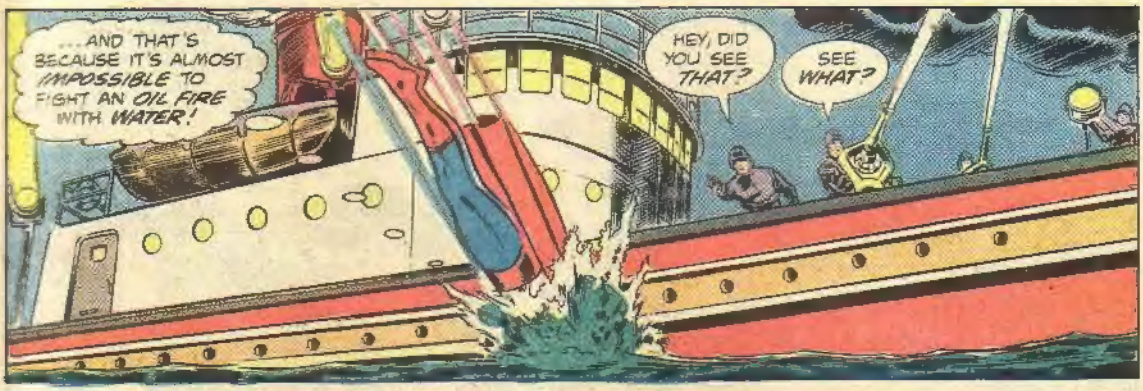
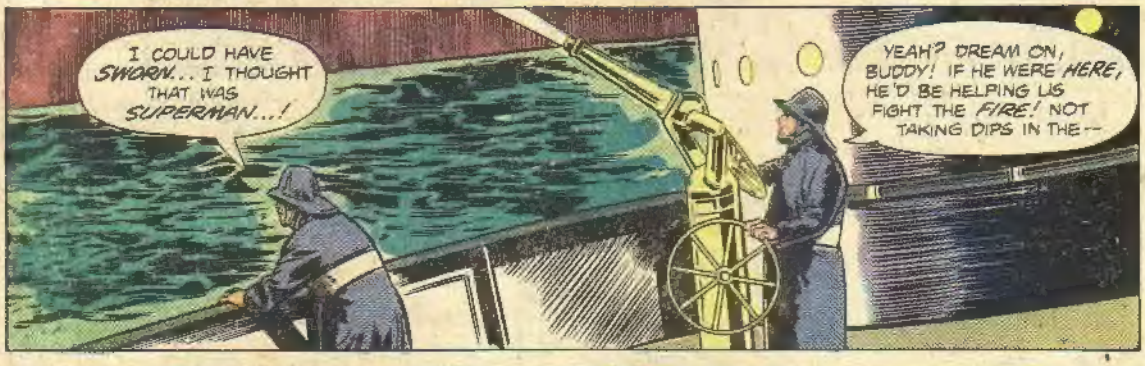
TYPICAL! EVEN WHEN WE'RE NOT ON A DATE, HE STANDS ME UP!
THIS CHARITY BALL IS IN HIS HONOR... HE WAS JUST SUPPOSED TO TAKE ME THERE, AS A FAVOR...
...BUT ONCE HE GETS STARTED DOING HIS PATROL, IT'S HARD FOR HIM TO STOP! HE WANTS TO HELP EVERYONE!
AND CAN I BLAME HIM? HIS POWERS ARE A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY!
DOUBLE SIGH! HOW CAN I GET TO THE BALL DRESSED LIKE THIS?
MISS LANE... MAY I BE OF ASSISTANCE?
HMM--?
MY NAME IS ERIC BURTON... BUT I DO HOPE YOU WILL CALL ME ERIC!
I NOTICED YOUR DIFFICULTY! PLEASE ALLOW ME TO OFFER THE USE OF MY LIMOUSINE!
LIMOUSINE...?
I HAPPENED TO OVERHEAR YOUR CONVERSATION WITH SUPERMAN.
BY COINCIDENCE, I TOO AM A GUEST AT THE CHARITY BALL THIS EVENING...
2


...AND I WOULD BE VERY FLATTERED IF YOU ALLOWED ME TO BE YOUR ESCORT TONIGHT!
I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...
SIMPLY SAY YES!
YES... THANK YOU, MR. BURTON.
PLEASE... ERIC!
ERIC.
SEE THIS MAN? LOOK CLOSELY, GENTLE READER... FOR HE REPRESENTS ONE OF THE GREATEST THREATS EVER TO FACE SUPERMAN...
THE BAY-EASTERN BUILDING, JACQUES...
...AND PLEASE HURRY! MISS LANE MUSTN'T BE LATE!
AND WHAT OF THE MAN OF STEEL?
THERE IT IS, RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF METROPOLIS BAY--
--AN OIL TANKER BURNING OUT OF CONTROL!
THOSE FIREBOATS DON'T SEEM TO BE MAKING MUCH HEADWAY...
3





I COULD HAVE SWORN... I THOUGHT THAT WAS SUPERMAN...!
YEAH? DREAM ON, BUDDY! IF HE WERE HERE, HE'D BE HELPING US FIGHT THE FIRE! NOT TAKING DIPS IN THE--

THE TANKER'S CREW ABANDONED SHIP DURING THE FIRST MINUTES OF THE DISASTER. THAT LEAVES ME FREE TO ACT!
RULE ONE OF FIRE-FIGHTING: IF YOU CAN'T DAMPEN A BLAZE...
4

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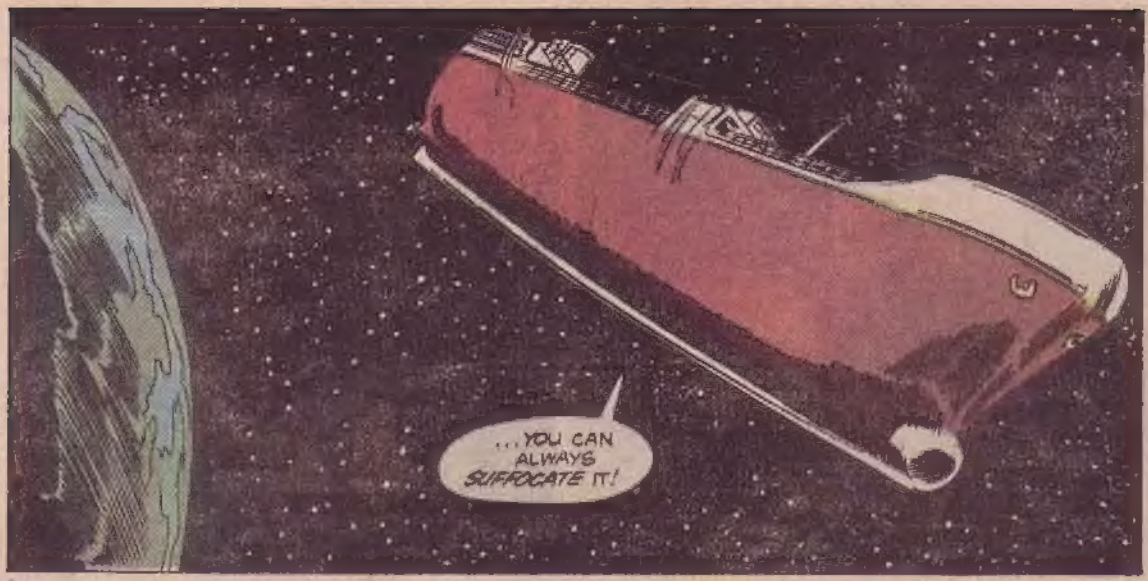
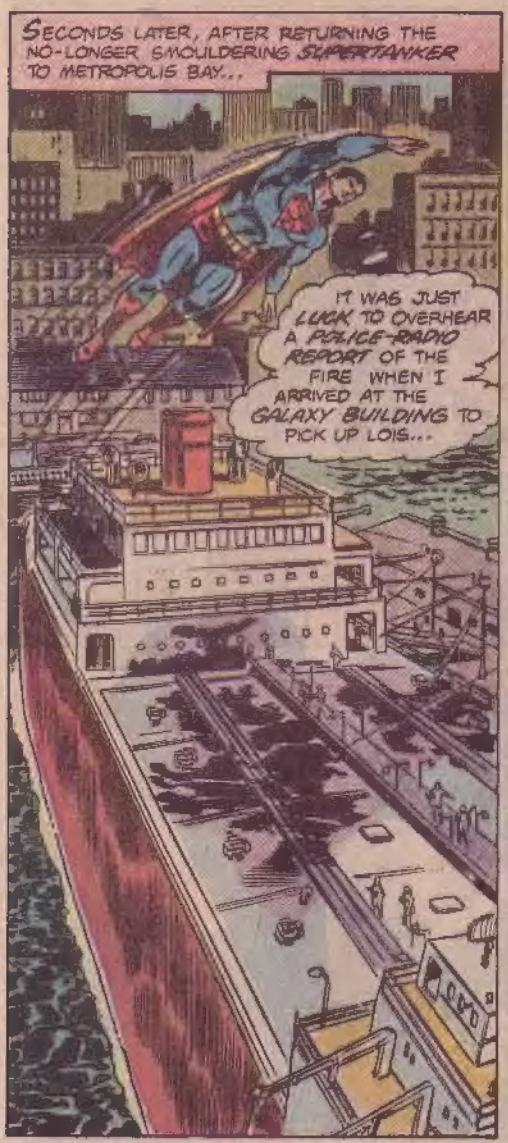
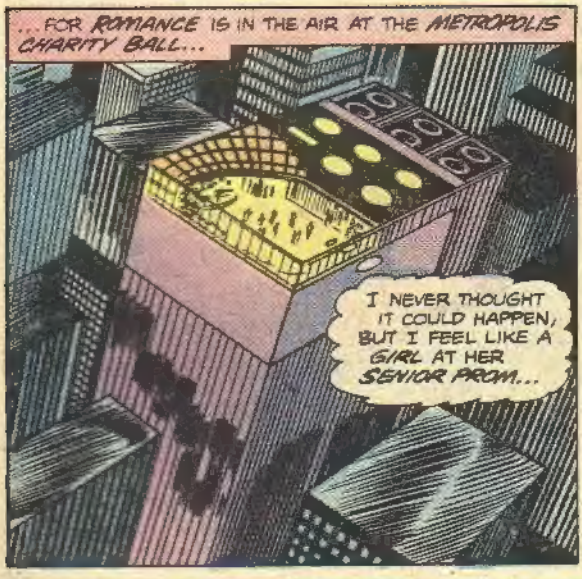

...YOU CAN ALWAYS SUFFOCATE IT!


SECONDS LATER, AFTER RETURNING THE NO-LONGER SMOULDERING SUPERTANKER TO METROPOLIS BAY...
IT WAS JUST LUCK TO OVERHEAR A POLICE-RADIO REPORT OF THE FIRE WHEN I ARRIVED AT THE GALAXY BUILDING TO PICK UP LOIS...

GALAXY
...OTHERWISE, BY THE TIME I'D HEAR OF THE BLAZE, THE TANKER COULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY DESTROYED!
IT'S A GOOD THING LOIS UNDERSTANDS WHY I--
LOIS--?

THAT'S STRANGE! I WAS SURE SHE'D WAIT FOR ME!
OH, WELL, I'LL SEE HER AT THE BALL.
DON'T BE TOO SURE, SUPERMAN..
5


...FOR ROMANCE IS IN THE AIR AT THE METROPOLIS CHARITY BALL...
I NEVER THOUGHT IT COULD HAPPEN, BUT I FEEL LIKE A GIRL AT HER SENIOR PROM...

...AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF ERIC BURTON!
HE'S LITERALLY THE MOST CHARMING MAN I'VE EVER MET!
AND HE DANCES LIKE A MODERN-DAY FRED ASTAIRE!

MARTHA, DEAR, ISN'T THAT LOIS LANE DANCING WITH THAT YOUNG MAN?
WHY, SO IT IS! I THOUGHT SHE AND THAT SUPERMAN WERE WHAT WE USED TO CALL AN ITEM... DIDN'T YOU?

APPARENTLY THEY AREN'T!
IT LOOKS LIKE THE DEAR GIRL HAS FOUND HERSELF SOMEONE NEW...

WHEW! ERIC, I'M BREATHLESS!
THEN PLEASE ALLOW ME TO GET YOU SOME REFRESHMENT!
AFTER SUCH A DANCE, SOMETHING TO DRINK SHOULD HIT THE SPOT!
MAKE IT A GINGER ALE!

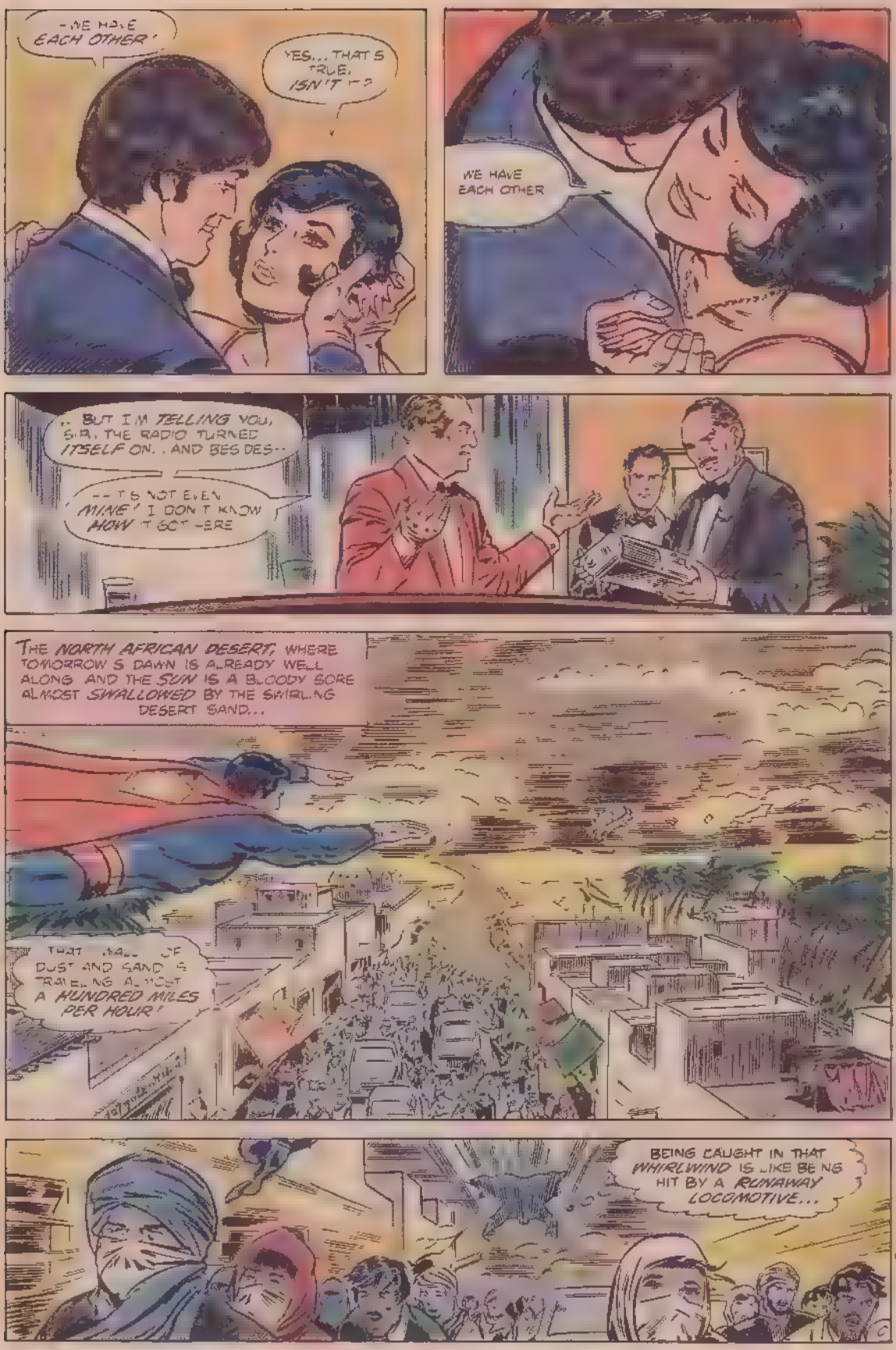
INTERESTING GUY, THAT BURTON. I HAD A WORD WITH HIM WHILE YOU WERE POWDERING YOUR NOSE EARLIER, LOIS...
NOT BUTTING IN ON MY PERSONAL LIFE, ARE YOU, PERRY?
I'M YOUR EDITOR, LOIS, NOT YOUR FATHER!
PERSONALLY, I LIKE BURTON. IT SEEMS HE OWNS A COMPUTER-DESIGN COMPANY RIGHT IN THE GALAXY BUILDING.
HE AND HIS BROTHER INHERITED A LITTLE MONEY... INVESTED IT IN ELECTRONICS... AND SO FAR, THEY'RE DOING PRETTY WELL.
NOW YOU SOUND LIKE HIS FATHER, PERRY!
THIS ISN'T A DATE... ERIC JUST HAPPENED TO BE HANDY WHEN I NEEDED AN ESCORT. BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT...
YES--?
NEVER MIND, YOU OLD BUSYBODY!
YOUR GINGER ALE, MY DEAR.
ERIC, YOU'RE A DARLING!
HELLO, LOIS...
7

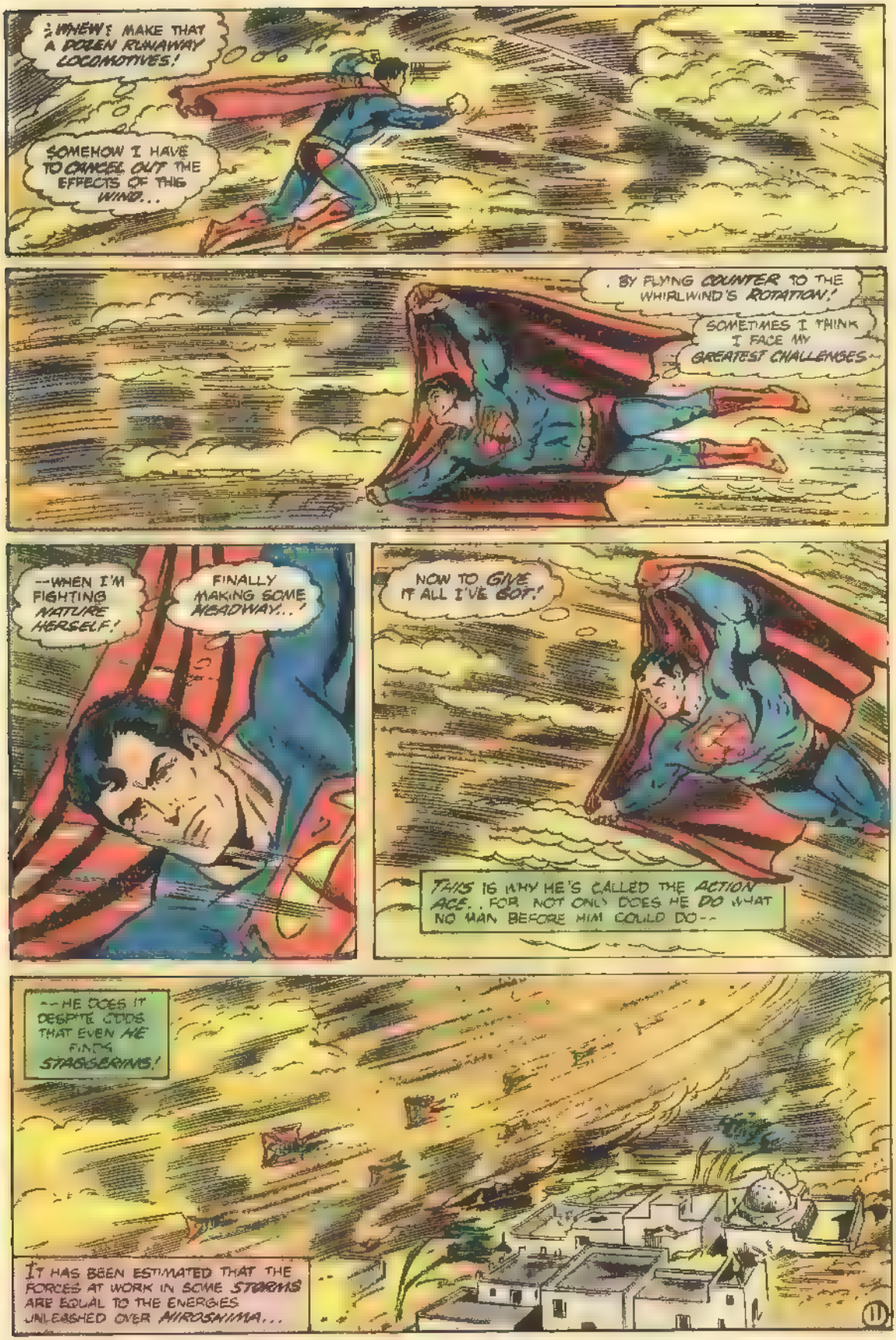
S-SUPERMAN... WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?
A MOMENT AGO! I HAD A JOB TO DO IN METROPOLIS HARBOR!
SHALL WE DANCE?
HMMM.
DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER TONIGHT, BEFORE YOU HAD TO RUN OFF? YOU DON'T THINK WE SHOULD BE SEEN ROMANTICALLY IN PUBLIC...
EH? LOIS, I ONLY MEANT WE SHOULDN'T ACTUALLY DATE--
LOIS--?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT, PERRY, SHE WALKED AWAY FROM ME!
;CHUCKLE;
SUPERMAN, IF YOU WOULD ALLOW ME TO GIVE YOU A WORD OF ADVICE.. FOR ONCE, YOU'VE GOT A RIVAL...
...SO DON'T STAND THERE WORRYING ABOUT YOUR DIGNITY!
IF YOU WANT THE LADY, GO GET HER!
AH, BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO BE THAT SIMPLE...



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

...FOR ERIC BURTON IS A RIVAL WHO TAKES HIS ROMANTIC PURSUITS VERY SERIOUSLY INDEED...
...AND TONIGHT HE'S COME PREPARED!...
KLIK!
KLIK
--NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE NORTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC, WHERE A FREAK SANDSTORM THREATENS THOUSANDS OF LIVES...
...ESTIMATES OF POSSIBLE DEATHS RUNS INTO THE HUNDREDS--
OF ALL TIMES--!
I'M NEEDED IN NORTH AFRICA!
HE'S LEAVING? BUT I WAS ONLY TEASING HIM-- WANTED TO MAKE HIM A LITTLE JEALOUS!
IT SOMETIMES SEEMS HE HAS TIME FOR EVERYONE BUT ME...
DEAR LOIS, WHY SO SAD? THE NIGHT IS YOUNG... AND AFTER ALL--
9


-WE HAVE EACH OTHER!
YES... THAT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT--?
WE HAVE EACH OTHER
.. BUT I'M TELLING YOU, SIR, THE RADIO TURNED ITSELF ON.. AND BESIDES--
--IT'S NOT EVEN MINE! I DON'T KNOW HOW IT GOT HERE
THE NORTH AFRICAN DESERT, WHERE TOMORROW'S DAWN IS ALREADY WELL ALONG AND THE SUN IS A BLOODY SORE ALMOST SWALLOWED BY THE SWIRLING DESERT SAND...
THAT WALL OF DUST AND SAND IS TRAVELING ALMOST A HUNDRED MILES PER HOUR!
BEING CAUGHT IN THAT WHIRLWIND IS LIKE BEING HIT BY A RUNAWAY LOCOMOTIVE...


WHEW! MAKE THAT A DOZEN RUNAWAY LOCOMOTIVES!
SOMEHOW I HAVE TO CANCEL OUT THE EFFECTS OF THIS WIND...
. BY FLYING COUNTER TO THE WHIRLWIND'S ROTATION!
SOMETIMES I THINK I FACE MY GREATEST CHALLENGES--
--WHEN I'M FIGHTING NATURE HERSELF!
FINALLY MAKING SOME HEADWAY..!
NOW TO GIVE IT ALL I'VE GOT!
THIS IS WHY HE'S CALLED THE ACTION ACE.. FOR NOT ONLY DOES HE DO WHAT NO MAN BEFORE HIM COULD DO--
--HE DOES IT DESPITE ODDS THAT EVEN HE FINDS STAGGERING!
IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT THE FORCES AT WORK IN SOME STORMS ARE EQUAL TO THE ENERGIES UNLEASHED OVER HIROSHIMA...
11

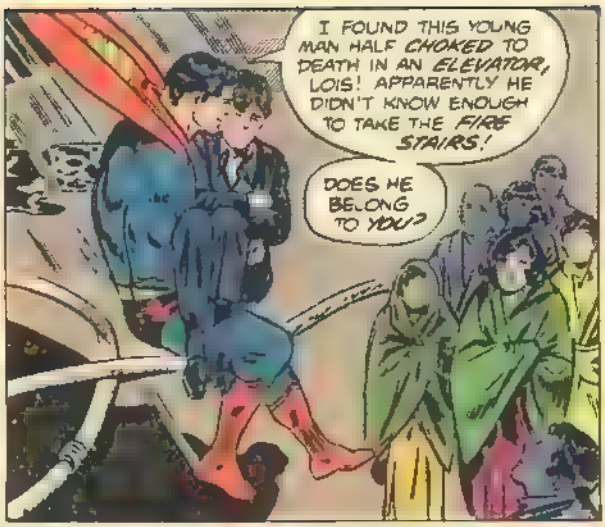
THIS MAN USES ALL THAT ENERGY TO FIGHT IT, AND MORE...
AND IN THE END, THE RUSHING WHIRLWIND IS REDUCED--
--TO SOMETHING LESS POWERFUL THAN A VAGRANT BREEZE..
NOW THAT I'VE DEALT WITH THIS EMERGENCY, I'D BETTER DO SOME SERIOUS THINKING ABOUT A MORE PERSONAL PROBLEM!
LONG AGO, I REALIZED THAT IF I TRIED TO DEAL WITH EVERY POTENTIAL DISASTER IN THE WORLD--
--I'D SOON LOSE MY MIND! I'M OBSESSED WITH HELPING THE HELPLESS, BUT THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD FOR EVEN A SUPERMAN TO SAVE.
SO I'VE COMPROMISED WITH MY CONSCIENCE...
AND NOW I RESERVE A FEW HOURS EACH DAY FOR MY PRIVATE LIFE, AS BOTH SUPERMAN AND AS CLARK KENT!
NATURALLY, IF I'M MADE AWARE OF A DISASTER-IN-THE-MAKING, I RESPOND AT ONCE..
BECAUSE I CAN'T AND WON'T TURN MY BACK ON MY OBLIGATIONS!
YET TWICE TONIGHT, UNEXPECTEDLY AND AT THE WORST POSSIBLE MOMENT, I HEARD RADIO BROADCASTS THAT SENT ME SPEEDING OFF! I DON'T REGRET HELPING THOSE PEOPLE.
12

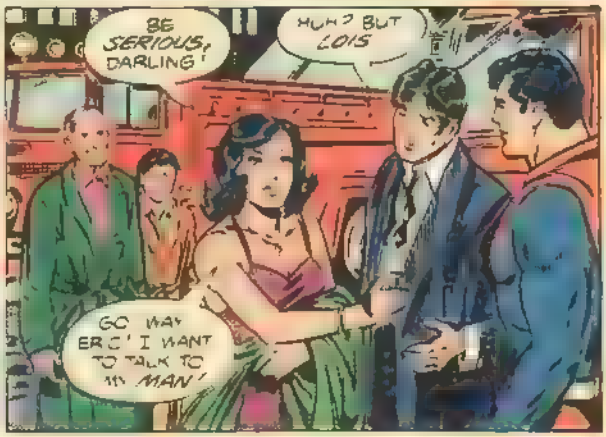
BUT I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT SOMEHOW I WAS SET UP!
LOIS SHOULD BE HOME BY NOW, AND PERHAPS I CAN APOLOGIZE FOR--
?!?
SUPERMAN AGAIN... AND THIS TIME, LIKE THE LAST TWO TIMES, I'M READY FOR HIM!
KLIK
:KLIK:
--TRAIN DERAILMENT OUTSIDE MELBOURNE! AUTHORITIES REPORT SEVERAL TANKER CARS WERE FILLED WITH DANGEROUS TOXIC GAS--
ERIC, PLEASE... WE HARDLY KNOW EACH OTHER!
HM? MY TV... HOW DID IT GET TURNED ON?
PROBABLY A FREAK POWER SURGE IN THE BUILDING'S WIRING...?
3

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANYTHING LIKE THAT HAPPENING BEFORE!
YOU'VE NEVER SEEN ONE OF MY REMOTES IN ACTION, EITHER, LOIS MY DARLING!
WITH THIS DEVICE I CAN ACTIVATE ANY TV OR RADIO WITHIN A HUNDRED FEET...
...AND BY USING A SOPHISTICATED COMPUTER RELAY BACK IN MY GALAXY BUILDING OFFICE, SIMILAR TO A CB-SCANNING DEVICE USED TO "LOCK" ONTO BROADCASTING STATIONS...
...I CAN SEE TO IT THAT THE ONLY BROADCAST SIGNAL RECEIVED IS ONE CARRYING "BAD NEWS"!
ERIC, DO YOU MIND? CIGARETTE SMOKE MAKES ME ILL...
OHH? I'M DEEPLY SORRY MY DEAR I'LL PUT IT OUT AT ONCE!
I EVEN MANAGED TO TAP INTO THE COMSAT SATELLITE, TO PICK UP "EMERGENCY" BROADCASTS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE
...AND SINCE SUPERMAN CAN'T RESIST HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED...
...MY CAMPAIGN TO ELIMINATE HIM AS MY RIVAL FOR LOIS' AFFECTIONS IS WELL UNDER WAY FOR MONTHS I'VE WATCHED HER... LOVED HER
NOW FINALLY, I CAN HAVE HER FOR MY OWN!
ERIC, THIS IS MOVING TOO FAST..!

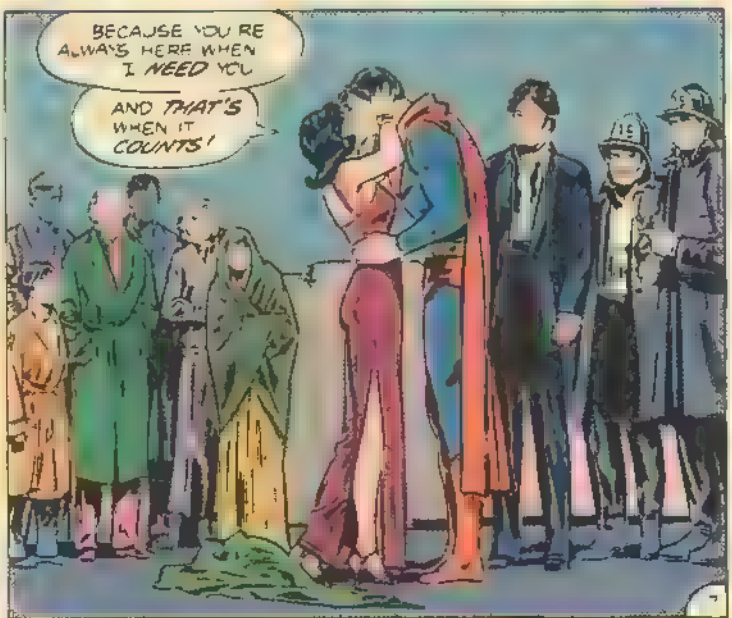
ARE YOU THINKING OF HIM, MY DARLING? IF HE LOVES YOU AS I DO, WHY ISN'T HE HERE NOW?
THAT ISN'T FAIR! HE HAS RESPONSIBILITIES...
PERHAPS SO...
BUT I CAN GIVE YOU WHAT HE CANNOT... MY UNDIVIDED ATTENTION!
CAN LOVE THRIVE WHEN IT IS UNTENDED? DO YOU REALLY LOVE A MAN WHO IS NEVER WITH YOU, NEAR YOU...?
YOU KNOW THE ANSWER, LOIS! YOU CANNOT LOVE HIM THE WAY I CAN MAKE YOU LOVE ME! LOIS, I--
MY SOFA! IT'S ON FIRE!
ONE OF THE TROUBLES WITH PETROLEUM-BASED ARTIFICIAL FABRICS IS THAT LIKE PETROLEUM, THEY HAVE A TENDENCY TO BURN-- AND BURN FAST!
EEEEEEE
FTOOM!
ONE MOMENT, THE COUCH IS SMOLDERING...
THE NEXT, IT'S A RAGING INFERNO!
;KOFF; HAVE TO WARN... THE NEIGHBORS! THERE ARE CHILDREN ;KOFF; IN THE NEXT APARTMENT!
ARE YOU CRAZY? ;KOFF; THIS WHOLE BUILDING COULD GO UP LIKE A BOX OF MATCHES! ;KOFF; WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!

ERIC! ERIC, PLEASE--!
NO USE HE'S PANICKED! SO IT'S UP TO ME!
KOFF KOFF CHOKE
WITHOUT THOUGHT FOR HER OWN SAFETY, CONCERNED ONLY FOR THOSE WHO NEED HER, LOIS MOVES FROM APARTMENT TO APARTMENT.
. WAKING THOSE ASLEEP, WARNING AND ISSUING ORDERS WHERE NEEDED..
..TAKING RESPONSIBILITY, BECAUSE SHE CAN, AND BECAUSE SHE MUST!
AND WHEN IT SEEMS THAT EVEN HER BEST EFFORTS ARE DOOMED TO FAILURE--
THE WALL--!
GRRRUNNN
--A KIND FATE LENDS A HELPING HAND!
SUPERMAN!
16


I FOUND THIS YOUNG MAN HALF CHOKED TO DEATH IN AN ELEVATOR, LOIS! APPARENTLY HE DIDN'T KNOW ENOUGH TO TAKE THE FIRE STAIRS!
DOES HE BELONG TO YOU?

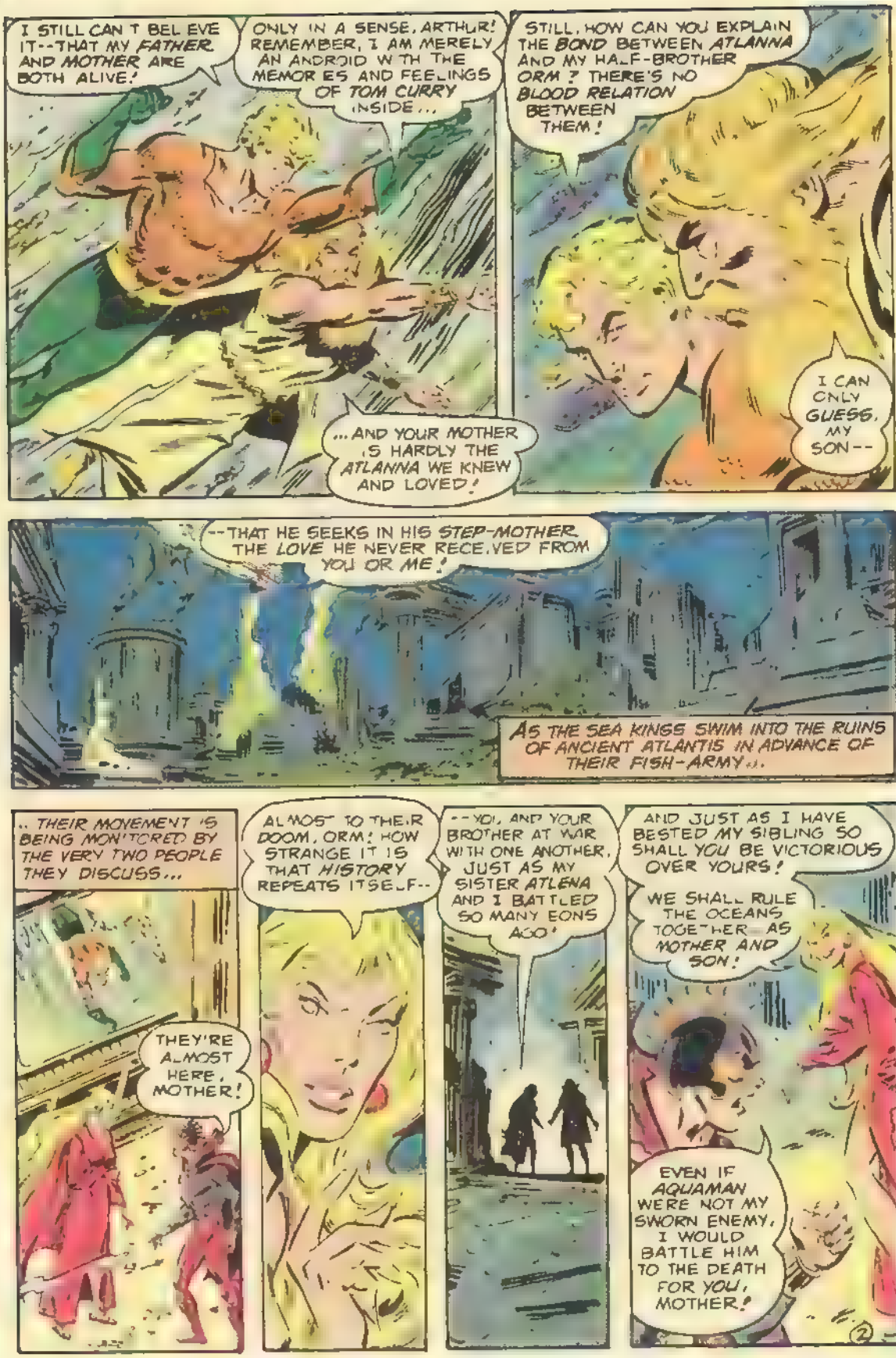


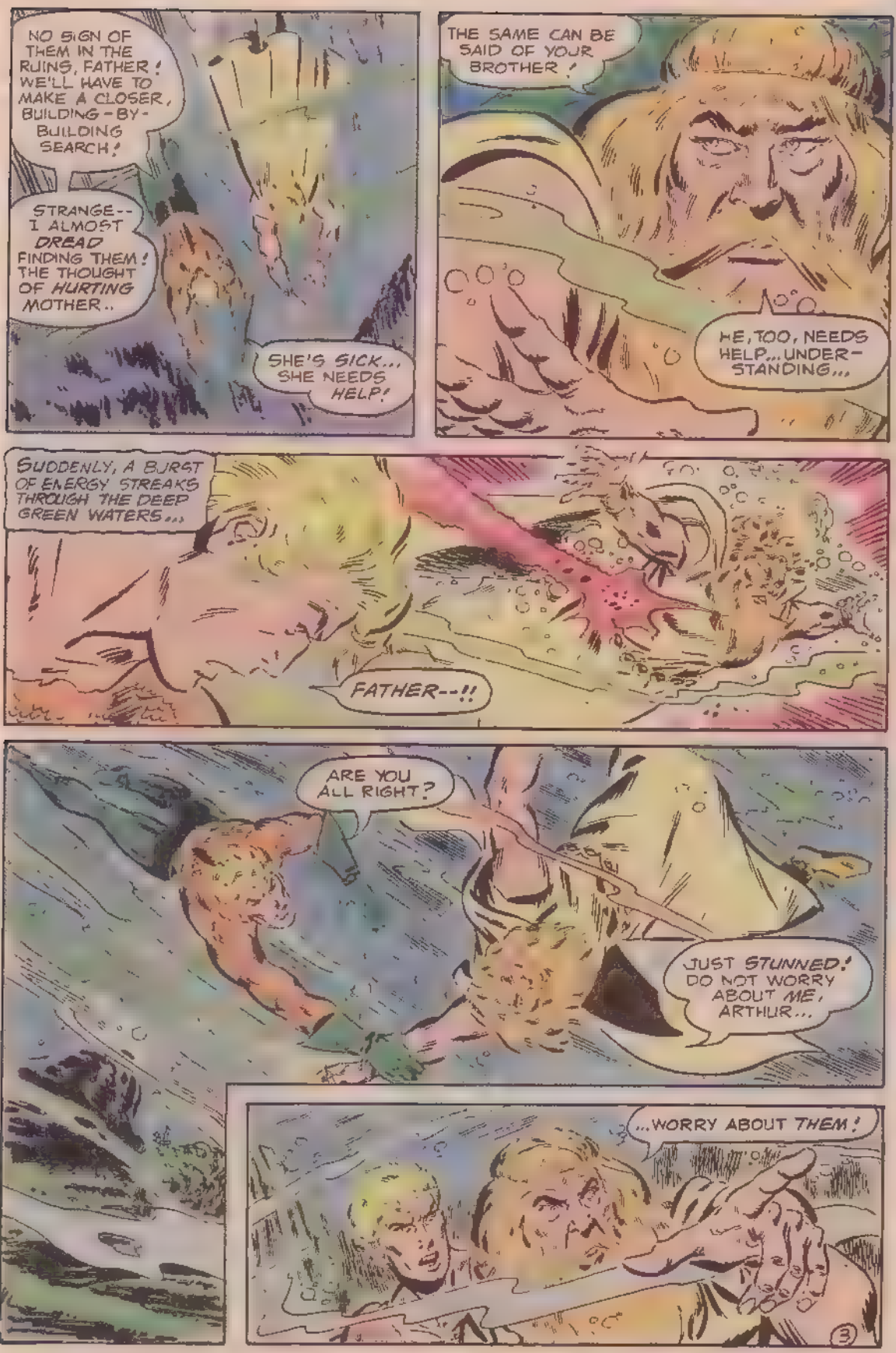
LOIS I M SORRY I WASN T HERE WHEN THE FIRE STARTED .. BUT THERE WAS A TRAIN WRECK IN AUSTRALIA.
SSSSHSH! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU? I KNOW YOU CAN'T ALWAYS BE WITH ME WHEN I WANT YOU .. BUT THAT DOESN T MATTER ..

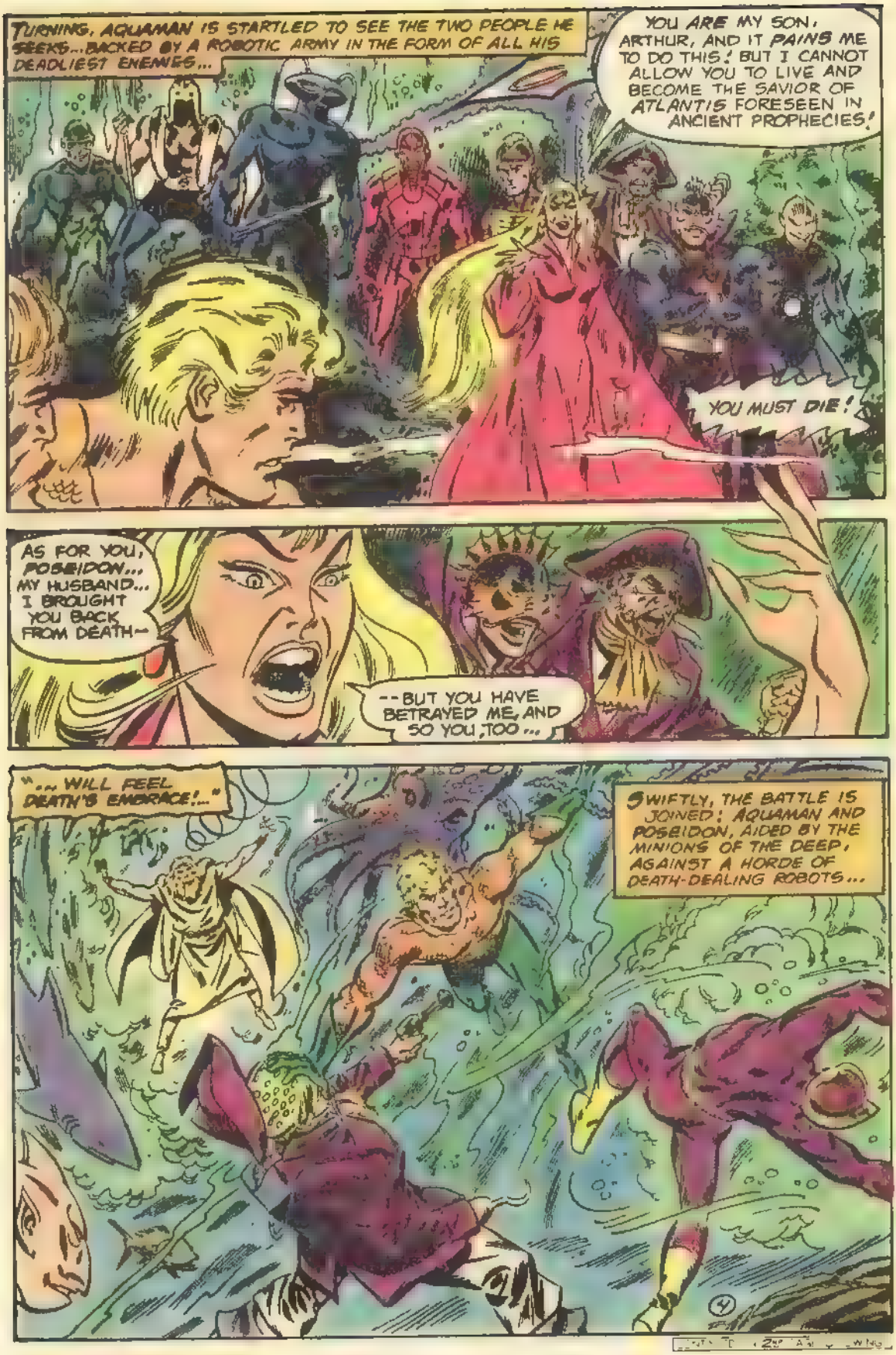



NEXT ISSUE: **SUPERMAN** MEETS **THE VIXEN!**
IS SHE HEROINE OR VILLAINESS? FIND OUT IN
**"DEADLY RAMPAGE OF THE LADY FOX!"**
ON SALE APR. 23! IT'S A DATE!

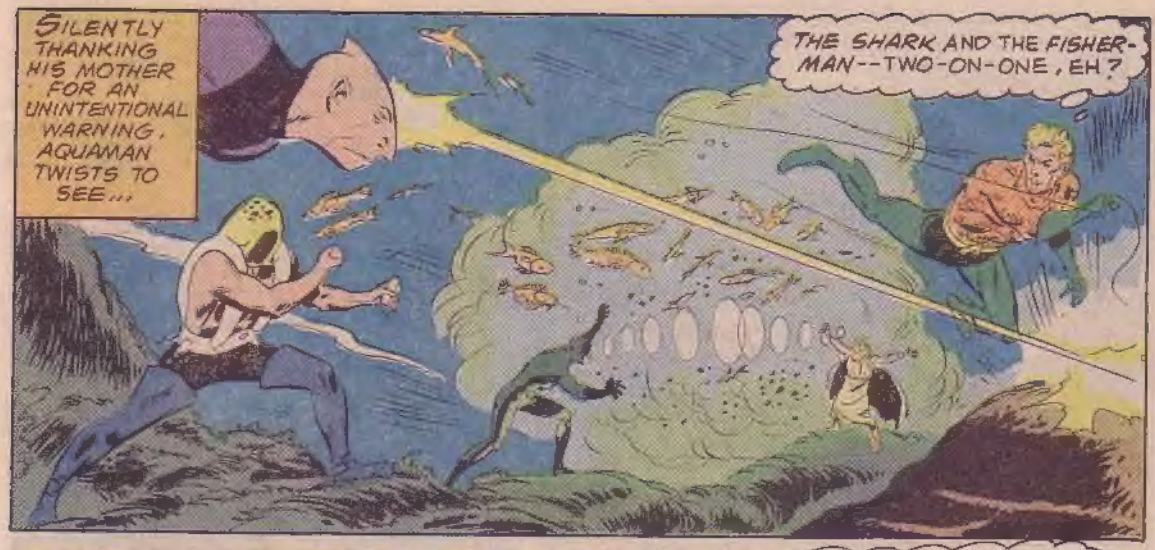
AQUAMAN
"FATHER AND SON"! IT CONJURES UP IMAGES OF HAPPY TIMES SHARED BY A BOY AND HIS SIRE--TIMES OF BEING TOGETHER, WHETHER WORKING OR PLAYING!
BUT THESE ARE FAR FROM HAPPY TIMES FOR THIS FATHER-AND-SON TEAM! THE FATHER--A DECEASED LIGHTHOUSE-KEEPER REINCARNATED IN AN ANDROID BODY AS POSEIDON, GOD OF THE OCEANS..
THE SON--OFFSPRING OF A UNION OF MAN-AND-MERMAID, CHAMPION OF THE DENIZENS OF THE DEEP, AND HAILED AS AQUAMAN, KING OF THE SEA...
THEIR MISSION, FOR WHICH THEY ARE JOINED BY AN ARMY OF MARINE CREATURES, IS TO FIGHT A MOST BIZARRE ENEMY--IN A BATTLE TO..,
"THE END!"
BOB ROZAKIS SCRIPTED * FROM A PLOT BY J. M. DEMATTEIS * [illegible] ARTIST * MILT SNAPINN LETTERER * JERRY SERPE COLOR ST * JULIUS SCHWARTZ, EDITOR


I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT--THAT MY FATHER AND MOTHER ARE BOTH ALIVE!
ONLY IN A SENSE, ARTHUR! REMEMBER, I AM MERELY AN ANDROID WITH THE MEMORIES AND FEELINGS OF TOM CURRY INSIDE...
...AND YOUR MOTHER IS HARDLY THE ATLANNA WE KNEW AND LOVED!
STILL, HOW CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE BOND BETWEEN ATLANNA AND MY HALF-BROTHER ORM? THERE'S NO BLOOD RELATION BETWEEN THEM!
I CAN ONLY GUESS, MY SON--
--THAT HE SEEKS IN HIS STEP-MOTHER THE LOVE HE NEVER RECEIVED FROM YOU OR ME!
AS THE SEA KINGS SWIM INTO THE RUINS OF ANCIENT ATLANTIS IN ADVANCE OF THEIR FISH-ARMY...
...THEIR MOVEMENT IS BEING MONITORED BY THE VERY TWO PEOPLE THEY DISCUSS...
THEY'RE ALMOST HERE, MOTHER!
ALMOST TO THEIR DOOM, ORM! HOW STRANGE IT IS THAT HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF--
--YOU, AND YOUR BROTHER AT WAR WITH ONE ANOTHER, JUST AS MY SISTER ATLENA AND I BATTLED SO MANY EONS AGO!
AND JUST AS I HAVE BESTED MY SIBLING SO SHALL YOU BE VICTORIOUS OVER YOURS!
WE SHALL RULE THE OCEANS TOGETHER AS MOTHER AND SON!
EVEN IF AQUAMAN WERE NOT MY SWORN ENEMY, I WOULD BATTLE HIM TO THE DEATH FOR YOU, MOTHER!
2


NO SIGN OF THEM IN THE RUINS, FATHER! WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE A CLOSER, BUILDING-BY-BUILDING SEARCH!
STRANGE-- I ALMOST DREAD FINDING THEM! THE THOUGHT OF HURTING MOTHER..
SHE'S SICK... SHE NEEDS HELP!
THE SAME CAN BE SAID OF YOUR BROTHER!
HE, TOO, NEEDS HELP... UNDER-STANDING...
SUDDENLY, A BURST OF ENERGY STREAKS THROUGH THE DEEP GREEN WATERS...
FATHER--!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
JUST STUNNED! DO NOT WORRY ABOUT ME, ARTHUR...
...WORRY ABOUT THEM!
3


TURNING, AQUAMAN IS STARTLED TO SEE THE TWO PEOPLE HE SEEKS...BACKED BY A ROBOTIC ARMY IN THE FORM OF ALL HIS DEADLIEST ENEMIES...
YOU ARE MY SON, ARTHUR, AND IT PAINS ME TO DO THIS! BUT I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO LIVE AND BECOME THE SAVIOR OF ATLANTIS FORESEEN IN ANCIENT PROPHECIES!
YOU MUST DIE!
AS FOR YOU, POSEIDON... MY HUSBAND... I BROUGHT YOU BACK FROM DEATH--
--BUT YOU HAVE BETRAYED ME, AND SO YOU, TOO...
"... WILL FEEL DEATH'S EMBRACE!..."
SWIFTLY, THE BATTLE IS JOINED: AQUAMAN AND POSEIDON, AIDED BY THE MINIONS OF THE DEEP, AGAINST A HORDE OF DEATH-DEALING ROBOTS...
4

UNNGHH!
A MECHANICAL STARRO THE CONQUEROR BLASTS AQUAMAN WITH AN ELECTRICAL BURST...
...AS SEAQUAKE TRIES TO SHAKE POSEIDON'S CONTROL OF THE FISH-ARMY...
...BUT THE GOD OF THE OCEANS PERSERVERES--
--CALLING UPON A HAMMERHEAD SHARK TO BRING AN END TO THE ATTACK...
LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON: AQUAMAN FIGHTS OFF ANOTHER STARRO-BLAST TO SUMMON HELP OF HIS OWN...
...AND THE MACHINERY OF "STARRO" IS CRUSHED UPON THE SEA-FLOOR...
MOTHER--YOU MUST STOP THIS MADNESS! I AM NOBODY'S SAVIOR--JUST A MAN!
PLEASE--LET US HELP YOU!
NO! IT IS YOU WHO NEED HELP, ARTHUR!


SILENTLY THANKING HIS MOTHER FOR AN UNINTENTIONAL WARNING, AQUAMAN TWISTS TO SEE...
THE SHARK AND THE FISHERMAN--TWO-ON-ONE, EH?

I'LL JUST GRAB SHARKIE--

--AND MAKE HIM ONE-ON-ONE WITH THE FISHERMAN...

...GIVING ME ANOTHER CHANCE TO TALK SENSE TO MOTHER--

--BUT NOT BEFORE I GET A KICK OUT OF THIS PHONEY BLACK MANTA!

THEN, SUDDENLY...
SQWAKK

YOU DO PRETTY WELL AGAINST A BUNCH OF MACHINES, BROTHER--
--BUT IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY WHEN YOU'VE GOT A FLESH-AND-BLOOD ENEMY!

GOOD RIDDANCE AT LAST, AQUA--
WHAT?!
BRZZZP
HOW COULD THAT ROBOT--?
I DID IT--
--WHILE YOU MAY NOT KNOW ME, OCEAN MASTER, SURELY YOUR ADOPTED MOTHER RECOGNIZES ME..
...AS HER SISTER ATLENA!
NO--NO! YOU'RE TRAPPED IN ANOTHER DIMENSION FOREVER! I HAD YOUR ONLY MEANS OF ESCAPE DESTROYED!
EVEN WITHOUT PHYSICAL FORM, SISTER, I HAVE MENTAL POWERS --WHICH I HAVE STRETCHED TO THEIR LIMIT TO STOP YOU!
YOU ARE FIGHTING A SENSELESS BATTLE--
--ARTHUR CURRY IS NOT THE SAVIOR THE ORACLE SPOKE OF! THAT ONE'S BIRTH LIES MANY GENERATIONS IN THE FUTURE!
YOUR SON IS BLESSED WITH GREAT POWERS-- WHICH HE HAS USED TO HELP THOSE WHO NEED HIM--BUT HE IS STILL A MAN...
...NOTHING MORE!

WE ARE SISTERS, ATLANNA, SO I CAN NEVER REALLY HATE YOU, DESPITE WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TO ME!
I CAN ONLY URGE YOU TO SEE THE ERROR OF YOUR WAYS--
--AND REPAIR WHAT BONDS YOU HAVE BROKEN WITH THOSE WHO LOVE YOU!
ATLENA! DO NOT GO--
GREAT NEPTUNE-- WHAT HAVE I DONE?! SOB!
MOTHER...
"MOTHER"...
I AM THAT TO EACH OF YOU! PLEASE FORGIVE ME, ARTHUR--
--PROMISE ME, BOTH OF YOU, THAT YOU WILL MEND THE RIFT BETWEEN YOU!
GRANT YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER...
...THEIR DYING WISH!
KRAAB BOOM
GONE... BOTH OF THEM-- GONE!
THEY WERE GONE A LONG TIME AGO, ORM--
--A LONG, LONG TIME AGO!
THE END

NEXT ISSUE: *AQUAMAN TEAMS UP WITH THE ATOM!*